CONCERNS RE: GARY DEMAR

With a heavy heart this private letter to Gary DeMar has been approved for public posting by its signatories: Andrew Sandlin, Ken Gentry, Doug Wilson, Jeffery Ventrella, Phillip Kayser, John Frame, Ardel Caneday, Jeff Durbin, James White,

Brian Mattson, Keith Sherlin, Jason Bradfield, Sam Frost, and Uriesou Brito

Please be in prayer for Gary, that he would return to orthodoxy on these important redemptive-eschatological issues. Here is the letter we sent twice to Gary in private:

Gary DeMar:

We are your brothers in the Lord, long-time friends, supporters, co-laborers in his Word, and co-promoters and defenders of the Christian worldview. We have contacted you privately twice in the last few months regarding our concerns, with the following:

We are writing to you once again with an earnest plea regarding your doctrinal transitioning that we are witnessing. Gary, we seriously and deeply hope that you will receive this as from deeply-burdened hearts and that you will respond to us as to those who love you in the Lord and have appreciated your public ministry.

As you know from our previous correspondence, we are deeply concerned over the eschatological direction you seem to be taking of late. Andrew Sandlin heard you speak at a conference in Texas about a year ago. At that time he was surprised that you would not acknowledge whether you believe in a future final judgment and a future physical resurrection of the dead. When asked, you also stated that you would not call full preterists “heretics.”

Due to certain statements you made publicly on Facebook recently, Ken Gentry asked you if you would affirm three simple, basic doctrinal positions. These questions have intentionally been kept limited and simple in order to avoid entangling interaction with the many variations within and permutations of Full Preterism (aka Consistent Preterism; aka Covenant Preterism; aka Hyperpreterism). Furthermore, they have also been confined to doctrines clearly declared in the American Vision Statement of Faith (https://americanvision.org/about/statement-of-faith/).

Those simple yes-or-no questions are now simplified and clarified even more:

Do you believe in a future bodily, glorious return of Christ?
Do you believe in a future physical, general resurrection of the dead?
Do you believe history will end with the Final Judgment of all men?

To refuse to affirm the future, physical resurrection, the final judgment of the

righteous and the unrighteous, and the tactile reality of the eternal state is to refuse to affirm critical elements of the Christian faith. To contradict these doctrines is not merely to contradict a few specific biblical texts, it is to contradict indispensable aspects of the Christian faith and the biblical worldview.

As blunt as it might sound, it is to strike at crucial aspects in the very heart of the Christian faith.
This private letter of inquiry has been agreed upon by the signatories listed below. Please, Gary, receive this not as an attack upon you, but as a humble concern for your doctrinal orthodoxy and the integrity of American Vision. Please set the matter straight regarding these three fundamental issues so that we can lay this matter to rest.

We love you and are continuing to pray for you,

In the love of Christ the Lord,

Andrew Sandlin, Ken Gentry, Doug Wilson, Jeffery Ventrella, Phillip Kayser, John Frame, Ardel Caneday, Jeff Durbin, James White, Brian Mattson, Keith Sherlin, Jason Bradfield, Sam Frost, and Uriesou Brito

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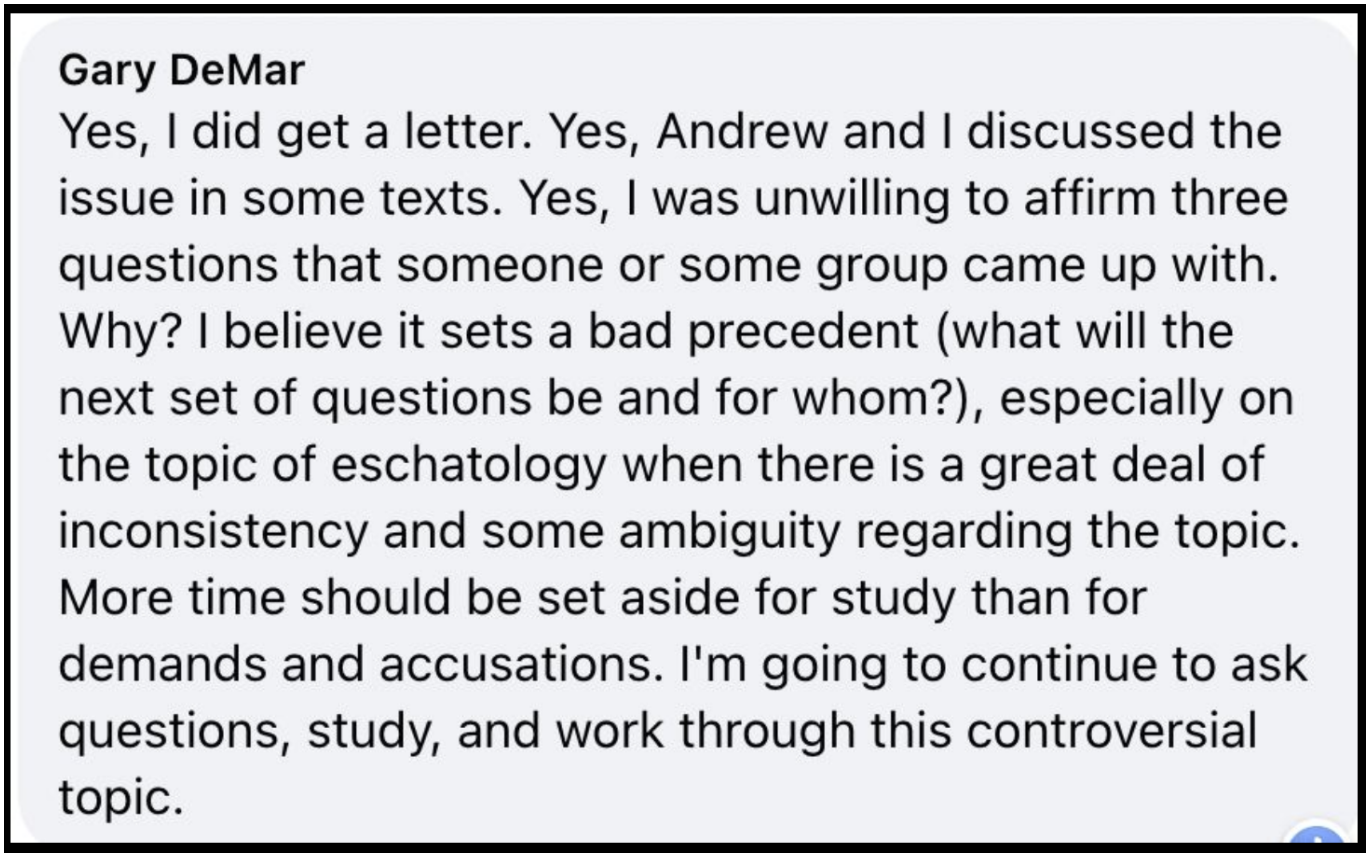
That is the end of the letter. Here is Gary’s response regarding interaction regarding the letter with his good friend, Andrew Sandlin (President, Center for Cultural Leadership):


Gary DeMar
Yes, I did get a letter. Yes, Andrew and I discussed the issue in some texts. Yes, I was unwilling to affirm three questions that someone or some group came up with. Why? I believe it sets a bad precedent (what will the next set of questions be and for whom?), especially on the topic of eschatology when there is a great deal of inconsistency and some ambiguity regarding the topic. More time should be set aside for study than for demands and accusations. I'm going to continue to ask questions, study, and work through this controversial topic.

End of Sandlin article; Gentry addition below

The screen capture below shows Gary's mockery of those who hold to the historic, universal, Christian church's view of a *future* physical resurrection body. It clearly shows his adoption of the spiritual nature of the resurrection at the point of each individual believer's death. It also demonstrates his confusion in mixing up a metaphorical coming of Christ with a literal, bodily coming of Christ. God comes metaphorically against Egypt in the Isaiah 19:1; Jesus comes metaphorically against Jerusalem in Matthew 24:30. These are quite different from his literal, bodily Second Coming at the end of history.

He also apparently does not realize creeds do not tell us everything the Bible teaches. They are summaries; otherwise they would be as long as the Bible itself. Thus, they do not mention metaphorical comings of God and Christ — since they are not literal comings.

And he is not aware of verses speaking of disembodied spirits going to heaven when we die. But Paul says "to be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord" (2 Cor. 5:8). Nor is he aware that "the dust will return to the earth as it was, and the spirit will return to God who gave it" (Eccl. 12:7).

Gary DeMar

Oh no! Some Christians believe they get a new body after they die rather than maybe tens of thousands of years in the future! It's what I've heard pastors say at funerals, three of them in the past year. I guess we're all going to hell. Show me a verse that says when you die your spirit goes to heaven and at the Second Coming God will reconstitute your body that most likely no longer exists and join it with your disembodied spirit. That's so depressing. Really? Seems like being disembodied for maybe thousands of years would be depressing. You must mean a Third Coming. Wasn't the coming of Jesus in AD 70 a coming, what Heb. 9:28 describes as a "second time"? Gentry et al. say it was. The Nicene Creed and the WCF make no mention of these distinct comings.

Original Link:
https://postmillennialworldview.com/2023/03/02/concerns-re-gary-demar/comment-page-1/